(c) if not, whether Government would take steps to sanction assistance to the above hospital to provide better and free service to poor patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) This Ministry has recognised Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, as Regional Cancer Centre and an annual grant of Rs. 75.00 lakhs is provided to the Institute for purchase of equipments.

During the current financial year, an amount of Rs. 1.00 crore besides the annual grant-in-aid, has been provided to the Institute for purchase of Brachy-therapy Machine.

**Procurement of cranes by Railways**

*225. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways had procured 12 numbers of 140T cranes from Messrs Jessop and Company Ltd., a CPSU located in Culcutta, between 1998 and 1991;

(b) whether Jessop had technical collaboration with NEI, UK for over a decade;

(c) if so, whether Railways had decided to import 12 numbers of 140T cranes at a cost of Rs. 132 crores in 1997-98 without floating any enquiry to Jessop and other indigenous manufacturers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Contract on M/s Jessop was placed in December, 1985 for supply of 12 Nos. cranes and supplies could be completed only upto November, 1991 after repeated extension of delivery period.

(b) Yes, Sir. M/s Jessop had a technical tie up with M/s NEI UK prior to 1991. However, their U.K. collaborator i.e. M/s. NEI had withdrawn their tie up, support for supply of materials, spares and services during 1991 .Subsequent to 1991, M/s Jessop were not able to provide even technical support to Railways in connection with service and spares calls in respect of the cranes earlier supplied by them.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The emergent needs to procure 12 Nos. MOT cranes was felt to equip the Railways in line with recommendations of the Commission of Railway Safety and especially, in the wake of Ferozabad accident. Accordingly, the Railways had decided in 1996 to invite limited tender keeping in view the standardised crane design for Indian Railways. Enquiries were not floated to M/s Jessop due to non-continuance of their technical tie up with NEI (UK) and due to non-availability of technical support from them in respect of cranes earlier purchased from them. No other established indigenous source existed for manufacture of 140T Hydraulic Cranes.

However, Sir, in view of the specific observations of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in their report No. 9 of 1999 (Railways) on this procurement issue, it has now been decided to entrust the detailed investigation into the entire affair to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

**Subiamaniam Committee Report on Illegal Trade in Wildlife**

*226. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of the report submitted by the Subramaniam Committee which examined the issues relating to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products; and

(b) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The salient features of the report submitted by the Subramaniam Committee, which examined the issues relating to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products and action taken by the Government are as follows:

| . S.No. | Recommendations of the Subramaniam Committee | Action taken by the Government |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Special measures to be taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs to clear sensitive and disturbed areas like Manas, Kaziranga and Dudhwa from the presence of militant elements. | The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has permitted the State Governments to utilise the central forces for providing security in the protected areas. |
| 2. | Enlisting support and co-operation of the local people in wildlife protection and to adopt special measures to remove the feeling of | Support and co-operation of local people in wildlife protection in enlisted through the Ecodevelopment Project and Sponsored Ecodevelopment Scheme. |